THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Marketing of proucts of small scale industrial units through Consortium

1333. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to organise the marketing of the products produced by small scale industrial units with a common brand name through a consortium; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to increase the number of items reserved for small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Products of small scale industries have been identified which can be sold under a common brand name. The small scale units are also being encouraged to organise their own consortium and market their products under a common brand name.

(b) The Government is reviewing the list of items reserved for the small scale sector with a view to increase the number of reserved items in the light of suggestions received from various small scale industries Associations. This is a continuous process.

Centralised Drug Testing Agency

1334. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will ensure more effective and efficient quality control of all drugs to protect public interest;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present testing system is totally inadequate; and

(c) whether in view of large scale inter-State movement of drugs all drug testing will be put under the Centre and some percentage would be charged on all drug production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Quality control is exercised over all drugs manufactured and sold in the country by State Drugs Controllers under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. Drugs can be manufactured only against a manufacturing licence issued by the State Licensing Authority after satisfying that the conditions of licences are being compiled with.

Every State Government is required to have adequate number of Drug Inspectors and a testing laboratory for monitoring the quality of drugs manufactured and sold in the State by means of random sampling by drugs inspectors.

Only 4 States however have full-fledged testing laboratories, 10 States have partial facilities whereas 10 States/UTs have no testing facilities. Central Laboratories namely viz. Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta and Central Indian Pharmaecopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad assist these States/UTs for testing of samples drawn by Drug Inspectors.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.